

BRIDGE ACROSS MOBILE BAY, ALA.

JANUARY 21, 1921.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SANDERS of Louisiana, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4603.]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4603) to revive and reenact the act entitled "An act to authorize the Gulf Ports Terminal Railway Company, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Florida, to construct a bridge over and across the headwaters of Mobile Bay and such navigable channels as are between the east side of the bay and Blakely Island, in Baldwin and Mobile Counties, Alabama," approved October 5, 1917, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it pass.

The bill has the approval of the War Department, as will appear by the letter attached and which is made a part of this report.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Respectfully returned to the chairman Committee on Commerce, United States Senate.

The accompanying bill (S. 4603, current session) proposes to extend the time for the construction of a bridge or bridges across the headwaters of Mobile Bay and navigable channels between the east side of the bay and Blakely Island, in Baldwin and Mobile Counties, Ala.

Authority for the construction of the bridge or bridges in question was granted by act of Congress approved October 5, 1917, subject to the terms of the general bridge law, section 6 of which provides that "the authority thereby granted shall cease and be null and void unless the actual construction of the bridge authorized in such act be commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date of the passage of such act."

So far as known to the department, no advantage was taken of the authority granted, and, pursuant to the restriction imposed by the general bridge law quoted above, the franchise expired by limitation on October 5, 1920.

In view of the circumstances, I am of the opinion that it would be better to amend the bill now under consideration so as to revive and reenact the original law in direct terms. I have amended the bill accordingly, and as thus amended no objection is known to its favorable consideration by Congress so far as the interests committed to this department are concerned.

W. R. WILLIAMS,
Assistant Secretary of War.